

2006 Toledo Update

Ryan Painter

In many ways, 2006 was a great year for the Toledo Church of Christ. Below are four areas I would like to share about:

Relationships: Our church is becoming more and more of a family! In 2001, 20 disciples relocated to Toledo to plant the church. Virtually, no one had any ties or connections to people in Toledo; most of us did not even know each other. This year, God has continued to turn this group into a great family. Two couples were married, the Segovias and the Crosses. One of the brothers helped his brother and sister-in-law to get baptized. Another woman, whose daughter is a disciple in Florida, was baptized. Later that year, her daughter and four grandchildren moved home to Toledo. Glory to God!



Financially: In a small church, finances can be a challenge! The Toledo church has had to borrow money from our sister churches in order to meet our budget, every year. As 2006 began we only had about \$10,000 in the church account. Through sacrifice of the saints, a bare bones budget, growing membership, and kiss from God, we ended the year with more than we started, without any outside support from our sister churches. That "kiss from God" unexpectedly came in the form of a \$5,000 check from a man in Iowa who studied the Bible in Toledo year ago and felt compelled to give to our ministry. Glory to God!

Structure: In late 2005, we organized the Toledo church into five Bible Talks. This was essential to the health of our church for two reasons. First, we have increased our leadership to help the ministry staff meet the needs of all the people (Exodus 18:22). The Bible Talks have dispersed the work of the ministry to more disciples. Secondly, we have been able to better meet the needs of the



congregation (Exodus 18:23). Every member is able to get the personal attention needed for spiritual growth. I believe the decision to return to small group Bible Talks enabled the church to experience great breakthroughs in 2006. Glory to God!



Growth: In 2006, we witnessed an amazing turnaround in the growth of the church. After a few years of limited growth, God blessed our evangelistic outreach and hearts for the lost. Through the efforts of repentance and the grace of God, the Toledo church helped 11 people to be baptized this year. We now number 50 disciples in Toledo! Glory to God!

Goals for 2007:

These are goals we are laying before God for 2007. Please join us as we pray and pursue these goals.

- * More baptisms than in 2006
- * Add an additional marrieds' Bible Talk
- * Have OSU beat Michigan again 🏈
- * Initiate a teen ministry
- * Give a portion of our special contribution overseas
- * Continue to unify the state of Ohio

Ryan Painter